

An Essay  
On the  
Homoeopathic treatment.

of  
Dysentery

Respectfully submitted to the Faculty of  
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Perhaps no disease has received more attention from medical writers than dysentery. Although much has been written upon dysentery by such men as Sydenham & Immormann, and others of equal eminence, it has left to the reverend Hahnemann to discover a law of cure, by the application of which, we are enabled to meet this formidable disease, with a true and successful treatment.

It is believed that no one, who has given Homopathy a candid investigation, will doubt for a moment its superiority in the treatment of disease, and in no case is this more manifest than in the treatment of dysentery.

Possessing implicit confidence in that immutable law of cure, Similis Similium curantur

the physician may enter the chamber fully assured that he is able to combat disease successfully, in whatever form it may present itself.

Dysentery is a disease of the intestinal canal, characterized by an inflammatory condition of the mucous or lining membrane of the colon and rectum, which sometimes extends to other portions of the bowels, accompanied with fever, mucus or mæco-sanguinolent evacuations with gripping and tenesmus.

It is usually divided by pathologic writers into the acute and chronic forms. The latter is generally the sequel of the former and has usually a fatal termination.

In most cases of true dysentery the discharge is of a mucus or viscid character, but often the severity of the inflammation is such as to produce an excretion of matter of membranous appearance, which is effused on the surface of the inflamed membrane.

Although the inflammation is generally confined to the colon and rectum, yet the small intestine often becomes implicated in the disease, which goes on to ulceration and suppuration, producing extensive disorganization of the parts diseased. The inflammation often sometimes extends as far as the Stomach, which often presents, in such cases, the dark and gorged appearance found in the intestines.

Sometimes dysentery attacks the patient without any very marked premonitory symptoms, but generally it is preceded by sudden chills with shuddering, alternated with flashes of heat, loss of appetite; nausea sometimes vomiting; a feeling of drowsiness; disturbed sleep; lassitude; throes with a bitter taste in the mouth, and dry tongue; frequent lancinating pains in the abdomen; nocturnal; diarrhea, and often constipation.

Dysentery may be distinguished from

diarrhoea of the presence of pain in the former and its absence in the latter. In diarrhoea there is a discharge of feces but in dysentery it is generally watery. It is of the highest importance that the Homoeopathic physician should make this distinction, as the treatment of dysentery differs materially from that of diarrhoea.

When dysentery occurs in the Aporistic form, and attacks persons of good constitution, it seldom proves fatal; but should it assume the Chronic form, of a typhoid character, become painful with frequent and violent evacuations; the abdomen painful and much distended, the prognosis is exceedingly unfavourable.

Death is generally preceded by a marked change in the countenance; great prostration of strength; hacking; cold extremities; unconsciousness; absence of abdominal pain; difficulty of swallowing, and little or no discharge from the bowels.

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1. *Oxytentum Acute.* Acute Dysentery.

Full hard accelerated pulse; a sensation ofillness over the whole surface of the body; coldness of the surface with internal heat; flushed face with a sensation of heat in the whole body. Abdomen distended, and very painful on pressure; pains in the extremities; cramps in the legs and feet; cold and shivering in the limbs. Sometimes accompanied with nausea; excess of heat and dryness of the skin; continued prostration. Dry mouth with thirst; nausea and vomiting before and after stool. Paroxysms of the Sphincter ani; involuntary discharges from the bowels; stinging pains with sense of pressure in the limbs; cutting, tearing and constricting pains in the abdomen; stools of a whitish appearance. Pains of a rheumatic character in the head, neck and shoulders.

In dysentery accompanied with much fever, the value of Aconite cannot be overrated. In cases where there is a tendency to serum inflammation

of the mucous coats of the lungs and small intestines, Aconite should always be administered. It has even proved beneficial after the vomiting of fulac matter, with extreme anguish and coldness of the extremities.

Hahnemann affirms that in all cases when Aconite is chosen, especial attention should be paid to the more symptoms; and the physician should be careful that they resemble those which belong to this remedy.

## 2. *Dysentery Chronic. Chronic Dysentery.*

Violent tenesmus with discharge of flatus; the stools of a purulent character; thickening resembling brown yeast; tenesmus followed by a copious thin stool, of a sourish smell; difficult stool with great pressure and distention of the abdomen; distention of the abdomen before stool. Tongue white with a yellow fm. taste in the mouth like rotten eggs; eructations tasting

like rotten eggs; bitter salt evacuations; flatus smelling like rotten eggs; nothing and pressure in the rectum. Stools frequent and small consisting only of slime; after every stool is obliged to lie down. Contraction in the arms; violent straining in the rectum. Breath exceedingly offensive. Dark red wine depositing a brick colored sediment; sensation of weight in the limbs; weariness to all kinds; the wine soon becoming turbid.

Cormen is at present but little used in the treatment of Dysentery; yet, judging from its pathognomonic symptoms, we are led to regard it as a remedy of considerable value in this disease.

### 3. *Dysenteria cersei*. *Cerseiæum Dysentery*.

Dark clay colored evacuations; the discharges of stool are shreddy, decomposed, and have a tulip-like appearance; stool smelling like putrid sores; a sensation of great distension as

of the patient would last before going to stool; distention of the colon; discharge of matter mingled with blood; discharge of pure blood; discharge of a corrugated mucus. Cutaneous appearance of the countenance; face of a blue color. Tongue of a bluish hue; interior thick with irritability of the stomach; vomiting of dark blue masses; vomiting of a thin dirty substance, of a yellow color, with colic pains in the abdomen; clammy sweat, with fainting fits. Putrid taste in the mouth; tongue of a black color; dry and cracked. Counteractive gelon hippocreti counteractive. Great eructation; mouth exceedingly. Excessive copiousness of salivation in bed. Military eruption on the skin; putrid skin; red vesicular eruption; dark pustules of a burning and painful character. Greenish dark brown urine; retention of urine; involuntary discharge of urine. Sensation in the limbs as if beaten. Pains in the abdomen mitigated by the application of external

heat; violent burning around the arms. Pulse  
weak and intermittent; great loss of strength with  
exhaustion; stupor; at times violent delirium  
and fear of death, or indifference.

Corsenium is one of our most important rem-  
edies in the treatment of dysentery. It may be selected  
in cases when there is much fever of a typhoid char-  
acter. Also when the disease arises from exposure  
to noxious exhalations of marshy districts.

In cases where ulceration of the bowels has  
taken place, with great prostration and rapid  
wasting of the vital powers, this remedy is of  
inestimable value.

#### 4. Cypentin Belladonna. Belladonna Dysentery.

Constant pressure and tearing down in the  
region of the lungs and genito-urinary organs; alternating  
with painful contraction of the arms; tenesmus and  
colic with no discharge from the bowels; pressure  
in the rectum. The pains are worse on the left.

Side pain more aggravated by leaning towards that side; spasmodic pain in the lower part of the abdomen, alternating with dull stitches in the region of the diaphragm; vomiting after tenesmus; gray colored stools; green stools with meat. Paralysis of the Sphincter ani; involuntary discharge of feces; sudden lancinating pain in the rectum; urgent desire for stool, with violent itching and contraction of the anus. Urine of a yellow color involuntary discharge of urine. Shining and silvery vomiting; excess in the abdomen more extended and very painful to the touch. Some pain in the evening; violent congestion to the heart and meliorium. Eruption of purpuric vesicles. Urine white and turbid. Aversion to drinks of all kinds; weak and full pulse; general debility.

This remedy is particularly adapted to dry inflammatory dysentery. Belladonna suits patients of a plethoric habit - and of a lively and violent temperament.

5. *Dysenteria Cantharidis*. Cantharides Dysentery.

Gripping pains in the abdomen with a discharge of a white mucus mingled with blood appearing as though it had been scraped off from the bowels. Burning pains in the abdomen extending to the kidneys; urine turbid and of a reddish color. The skin of a peculiar yellow color. Passage of purulent blood by stool; bloody stool with a discharge of purulent mucus during the night. Pulse full, quick and sometimes intermittent; mouth dry with dry mouth and excessive thirst. Nucleating of the urine. Emaciation and great debility.

6. *Dysenteria Capsici*. Capsicum Dysentery.

Stools frequent and small, consisting mostly of bloody mucus; discharge of a tough mucus mixed with blood; thin following each stool and very brisk following of straining; frequent desire to go to stool, especially after drinking. Colic pains in the abdomen, followed by small and stringy

Stools, serum gripping pains in the region of the umbilicus. Tenesmus with burning around the anus; itching in the anus; Smarting and stinging pains in the anus; much heat about the anus; violent distension of the abdomen which is at times so hard and sensitive that the clothes cannot be borne.

Painful feeling of pressure in the region of the stomach and epigastrium; discharge of a greenish frothy matter. Vomits now and of a red color. Inclination to vomit; excessive flatulence; much thirst with evening exacerbation of fever; tongue hot, dry and trembling. Mind irritable; a peculiar taste in the mouth like putrid water; great sensibility; frequent starting during sleep.

This remedy is useful when the disease is complicated with rheumatism; also when it takes the cuticular form accompanied with great nervous irritability of the whole system.

7. *Dipenterium Curonis Vegetabilis*. Carb. Ag. Dysentery.

Violent straining with little or no discharge from the bowels; tenesmus with burning in the rectum; pressure in the rectum; paralysis of the sphincter ani; involuntary discharge of feces; stools of a light color; crampy colic after stool; languor after stool; a discharge of curd-like mucus with coated tongue; severe cutting and stinging pains in the rectum. Stools followed by burning in the rectum. Sensation of lightness in the abdomen after going to stool; sensation of pressure towards the mouth of the rectum; much anxiety and a tremulous sensation in the region of the rectum after stool. Bluish appearance of the face. Frequent attacks of burning heat during the night; pulse almost imperceptible; breath cold, with ruminating of the patient minor.

Curbo Vegetabilis is an invaluable remedy in the cure of dysentery. The symptoms calling for its use much resemble those of Corsicanum.

Dr. Sumner in speaking of this remedy in dysentery says Many instances might be cited where in judicious alternation of these two remedies has effected benefit where neither of them might have been singly adequate to the exigency of the case.

8. *Dysentaria Chamomilla.* Cham. Dysentery.

Light colored feces; undigested stools; discharges of green colored feces, with colic pains; much fever with burning in the arms; nothing pains in the arms; constant running down and little or no discharge. Excessive heat of the whole body with pain; headache; pains in the head resembling those of rheumatism; extreme agitation and tattering in red stools of a bilious character. Tongue coated with a foul substance and bitter taste in the mouth.

Chamomilla is found to be most useful in the first stages of dysentery and my region

in cases when Aconite has failed to relieve the pernicious symptoms. It is also serviceable when the disease is complicated with hemorrhoidal difficulties.

### 9. Dysenteria Chinal. China Dapentoy.

Mucus Stools; involuntary loose stools of a yellow color; undigested stools during the night; blackish or tallowy stools, with much wringing and straining; loose white stools with high colored wind. Stools of a putrid character; impetuous eruptions with stitches and smarting in the anus; violent colic preceding each stool; collection of flatus in the intestines; discharge of fecal faces. It peculiar tingling in the rectum as if produced by worms; stitching and wringing pain in the rectum after stool; creeping pains in the anus extending to the loether accompanied with burning in the glands. Hot skin; much thirst; pulse full, more and more quick. Smarting in the pit of the stomach; wind dark colored.

This remedy is particularly adapted to the treatment of dysentery when it occurs as an epidemic in marshy situations. There is also a distinguishing remedy in cases varying from exposure to not, sudden changes of weather etc.

10. *Dysentaria Colocynthidis. Colocynth Dysentery.*

Frequent stools with violent tenesmus; evacuations of a musty smell; thin mucus stools without pain; burning sensation in the loins; violent attacks of pain in the abdomen in the region of the umbilicus. Pains as from incarceration of the bowels; cutting pains in the loins; stools of a bilious and slimy character. Must flatus to pass with the stool. Spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the body; pains in the abdomen relieved by pressure or by leaning forward. Evacuations of a greenish yellow color; discharges of some humor from the bowels; tenesmus of the bladder; gripping pain in the intestines. Nausea with vomiting; pernit heat;

Excess in flatus; putrid taste in the mouth. Des-  
ignation of different parts of the abdomen; full  
and bounding pulse.

11. *Dysenteria Morœnii Carraschi*. Mor. ex. Dysentery.

Faster evacuations of a bilious character; loose  
faeces of a green or brown color mixed with sanguin-  
eous mucus; severe cutting pains in the bowels con-  
tinuous with much urging and tenesmus; with per-  
petual desire to evacuate; high colored evacuations  
mixed with mucus and congealed blood; thin-  
ning and gripping pains on moving; Misusage of a  
corrosive substance; strong stools. Burning sub-  
stitution in the abdomen; putrid taste in the mouth;  
scrofulous; tongue coated with a whitish  
substance, especially on its edges; vomiting mucus  
of a bitter taste. Very evanescent expression of countenance  
great sensibility towards the fresh air; pulse trem-  
bling, threatening our hasty perception.

Morœnus Corrosions is a specific remedy

in dysentery of a gastric character. The following symptoms should be removed by Aconite after which we may commence the use of this remedy. It is sometimes used in alternation with Aconite with beneficial results.

#### 12. Opuntia Phosphori. Phosphorus Dysentery.

Mucus discharge mingled with blood, involving evacuation, discharge of pure blood of great pressure after each evacuation accompanied pure and much exhaustion, nothing with sharp, stinging pains in the rectum, pieces of greenish or grayish color. Constriction of the rectum with cramps, prickling sensation with cramps in the fingers, numbness of the extremities. Dryness of the mouth over forces. General debility over much constancy about the termination of the disease.

Phosphorus is one of the most valuable remedies which possesses in the cure of dysentery, and especially of the chronic form. It may be judiciously alter native with Ceremicum.